

Subject: NEBELSON V. , Sov at Exchange Student at Columbia

Source : S
2 person STablin 2 v Eugene

Date : 23 Nov 19 4

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N. was contacted by S. on Thursday Nov. 19, 1964 in the international house of Columbia University. The meeting was prearranged on telephone Nov. 12, 1964.

Personal description of N. : 5'8", 150 lbs. 28 yrs , black hair, dark complexion, Biographical data: Russian nationality, lived in Kazakhstan, parents Russian, married, lives in Moscow, studies American history.

TOPICS. Columbia university and America. N. said that he was disappointed by America, he said that the Soviet papers do justice to America, he said that it was worse than he expected, N. said that he thought that the Soviet press was distorting the view of America, but he found out that they were telling the truth. N. said that it is too early to tell if Columbia is really as good as it is supposed to be. He said that Moscow university is just as good if not even better.

Poverty in America. N. said that there is much poverty in the U.S. he said that there are so many bums that it was sickening. S. asked him there were bums in the Soviet Union N. said that there were none. N. said that there was a big problem of unemployment in the U.S. S. replied that there was a problem but that the people who didn't want to work did not have too. S. asked N. if there was unemployment in the USSR. N. said no, but then he changed his answer and said that the people love to work in the USSR. He said that the people who don't work, don't eat.

Education in the U.S. compared to the USSR. :

N. said that the educational system in the USSR is much better than in the U.S. He said that the poor student can receive an education in the USSR if he was qualified. S. said that in the US any student can receive an education, he said that if a student is qualified but poor he can receive education in any number of free colleges and universities, but if a student is not qualified he can receive an education in a pay school. At this answer N. seemed to get mad and said let's change the topic.

Standard of living in the US compared to the USSR. :

N. said that the standard of living in America is much higher than in the U.S.S.R. but that the standard in the USSR will catch up to America in a few years. N. said that at the prices in America are very high, and that in the USSR there is free medical

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care for everybody, and in the US it is very expensive. S. said that the average salary in the US is much greater than in the USSR, and the people can afford to S. said that the average income for an American family is 6,000 dollars a year and this cannot compare to the USSR. N. seemed to get mad at this statement and did not want to discuss this issue.

Hungary and Korea:

S. asked N. about Soviet newspapers and if they print the truth about world events, N. said yes of course. S. asked N. about the revolution in Hungary if N. knew the truth of what happened. N. said that he knew all about Hungary, he said that the Americans offered each revolutionary \$ 100, for their part in the revolution. S. said that this was nonsense, and said that in Korea, there were communist troops sent in from China, and if he knew about this. N. said that he could not believe this because he is old and knows too much about politics to believe such stories. S. asked N. if he was in Hungary or Korea and saw what was going on, N. said no.

Shevchenko:

S. asked N. if he knew about the monument of Shevchenko in Washington. N. said that he knew all about Shevchenko, his memory was celebrated in the USSR this year throughout the country, S. asked him if the Soviet writers came to the unveiling of the monument. N. said that the writers did not come because they were not invited. But that they would readily come, and talk with anyone.

In the discussion about Soviet press, S. said that he would bring N. some Soviet newspapers and show him the lies that are written about America. N. said all right. S. said that he would bring this in a few weeks. After this they parted.